

HB 830 -- ASSESSMENTS IN SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Spencer

This bill states that beginning in the 2017-18 school year the school board of each school district must ensure that its written policy on student participation in statewide assessments includes a policy regarding the National Assessment of Educational Progress and any college entrance test used as a statewide assessment in high school, including the ACT test.

The bill requires that the written policy must state that any parent or adult student has the right to excuse the student from taking any statewide assessment test and any educator has the right to discuss the policy with members of the public and refer inquiries to the principal, another administrator, or the president of the school board.

The written policy allowing a student to opt-out may not be used by any state or local agency as a basis for any corrective action or penalty. This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to establish a form to excuse a student from taking a statewide assessment.

The bill requires the administration of any school district or public charter school to send a notice to parents and adult students at least 30 days before the administration of the statewide assessment, as specified in the bill. This bill allows DESE to waive the notice requirement if a disaster affects the ability of the school district or charter school to administer the assessments and the assessments will be provided at a later date. Any student excused will be provided with supervised study of academic content, which will be considered instructional time for purposes of the rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

The results of statewide assessments will be provided to students in a timely manner that is understandable to the student.